

## SUMMARY MINUTES APPROVED AT JUNE 2019 MEETING



# KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION State Advisory Council for Exceptional Children SUMMARY

**FEBRUARY 21-22, 2019**

### I. Call to Order

- Barry called to order at 1:56 pm, thanked all for attending the ARC Conference.

### II. Roll Call

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Anita Dowd  
Julie Rubemeyer  
Eric Umstead  
Libby Suttles  
Melissa Knight  
Amy Folker  
Tricia Gibbons  
Kimberly Chevalier  
Ravonne Sims  
Gretta Hylton  
Barry Lee  
Brent Hutchinson  
Brandi Hitzelberger  
Christopher Johnson  
Sylvia Kuster for Raymond Debolt  
Joe McCowan  
Interpreters Mary Fehrenbach and Natalie Malone

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

William Greer  
Anna Light  
Amber Barnes  
Leisa Hutchinson  
Danny Hughes  
Jessica Duenas  
Raymond Debolt

### III. Approval of Minutes

- Brent moved, Chris seconded, all say aye

### IV. Officers to be Slated by the Election Committee

- Kim Chevalier presented the slate
- President - Leisa Hutchinson
- Vice President - Melissa Knight
- Secretary - Julie Rubemeyer
- Members at Large - Ravonne Simms and Eric Umsted

Vote will be taken at the next meeting

### V. Presentation about Kentucky Corrections (Power Point Attached)

**Presenter: Ravonne Simms**

#### **Summary of Discussion:**

Also attending: Randy White - adult institutions, David Bradley, education , Marilyn Sanford - special education, Donna Clamrock

Half of Kentucky's incarcerated population is in jails, served by elected officials. There are 23,450 incarcerated, 50,000 served, 5372 staff members. \$674 million budget at a cost \$71.10 per day to incarcerate and \$3.63 per day to supervise.

Ravonne discussed possibility of a Master Sharing Agreement between agencies. Working toward that goal. Syvlia remarked about confidentiality issues, Ravonne said she is always asking, "How can we get through that?" Barry asked about medication for inmates with ADHD. ADHD is not considered a mental health disorder but a behavioral issue. Melissa commented about their ADHD and concern for non-medicated. How could they work through IEP without meds? Joe interested in the data sharing between agencies. Donna talked about transcripts, GED. Waiting list to get in to GED training. Ages 18 to 65. Everyone has something like an IEP. 36 men per class. 101 men in institution earned their GED in Donna's program last year. Tricia asked about the discovery process for inmates. Starts when admitted to population, no inherited info from schools. Barry asked about info regarding foster care placement. That info has not been available to Department of Justice. Chris remarked stats are indicating that 80% of prison population has been in foster care. Libby asked about a formal recommendation re: sharing of info. Randy White spoke on training penitentiary staff to recognize mental illness. Lack of

funding for special education teachers in prisons, they are paid less than teachers on the street. Kentucky has one of the highest rate of evidence based counseling for inmates - 60%. Starting to see a reduction in recidivism. Barry - seems like the board is ready to recommend opening Infinite Campus to prisons. Teachers in prisons cannot maintain certifications for their time working outside of schools, they are also paid less. Corrections cannot accept student teachers. Sylvia asked about monitoring of education in correction through KDE.

Kim asked council to review Senate Bill 20, Kentucky General Assembly. Concerns about unfunded mandates.

**Action Taken:** Barry asked for a motion to make a formal recommendation to support Department of Corrections access to Infinite Campus and to have teacher certification hours carried over from corrections. Melissa motioned, seconded by Eric and Brent.

**Follow-up Required:** Barry will draft a formal letter requesting the above and send to the council for email review.

VI. Recess at 3:46

- Joe requested that all council members complete the new and improved travel vouchers.

## **OPEN FORUM**

Convened at 4:30 with the following guests offering comment:

- Kathryn Aqua from Louisville is the parent of two 20 year old girls with moderate to severe disabilities including blindness and autism. She is concerned that parents will no longer be able to serve as CLS workers under the Michelle P. Waiver. Families were notified in February from support broker, verbal notification only. Are some parents grandfathered in? Barry will share a contact with Michelle P. experience.
- Julie Rubemeyer from Erlanger, SACEC member Julie is asking how does the state calculate the graduation rate? Does the fed allow states to calculate? Julie worries that her son may be seen as a burden rather than an asset if he's unable to be counted due to the alternate diploma.
- Tom Laurino, of Paducah, member of ARC board. The Map 350 form has to be signed multiple times to be part of a waiver program. The tern mental retardation is still part of the form. Medicaid will not change the form. Will council join in the request to ask that it be changed? Barry referred to Rose's Law effective August 2017.
- Sherry Brothers with ARC, concerned about individuals who are not socially emotionally ready to graduate. They may be academically ready. There is a need for peer mentors.
- Cara Atwood, adoptive parent, teacher. She works as a parent advocate. Parents don't know laws and their kids may not have access to all the services to which they are entitled. Barry talked about ARC chairperson training.

- Devon March has a nephew with autism. He receives the same report card as a typical student. Do children with IEPs have the same sort of report? How is he being held accountable for subjects he is not being taught?
- Katie Wolf Whaley, works inhuman development at UK. Parents are concerned about children having to choose between academic and vocational goals. Barry commented that info is coming through job coaches but not every school has one. Trying to work through the co-ops.

Kim moved to close open forum. Melissa Knight seconded.

Barry called for recess. We will meet again at 8:30 tomorrow.

VII. Call to Order

VII. Roll Call

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Anita Dowd  
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 Amy Folker  
 Tricia Gibbons  
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William Greer  
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 Danny Hughes

## **IX. Due process review, Sylvia**

There have been no new reports since the last SACEC meeting.

## **X. KDE Update, Gretta (power point provided)**

KDE has reorganized, special education and early learning are elevated back to an office status. The office level has policy, data and finance. Three divisions of IDEA implementation, IDEA monitoring and results, division of state schools. Students named to student advisory council. Student priorities align with many of the SACEC priorities. New professional learning series to be kicked off regionally. Significant disproportionality moving forward as recommended. Placement, behavior and identification events could result in significant disproportionality. There are 13 districts that have been identified as having an issue. Alternate risk ratio is identifying white students for the first time. On March 17 the finance portion will be open for public comment for the Department of Ed application. Maintenance of Effort - ensuring local education spends state and local funds for special education services. State Systemic Improvement Plan - targeting 8th grade mathematics, general education setting for special education students. Takes 3 to 5 years to implement a research based practice. Carnegie Foundation recognized at national level. SPDG to support districts on a corrective action plan. Four independent districts are being monitored for discipline issues. \$5 million state personnel development grant for discipline/behavior issue. Districts are being cited but also supported. ABRI - academic and behavioral response to intervention. Transportation. School Readiness Branch.

Sylvia - consolidated monitoring, ten visits will occur, 5 already completed. Schools given a ten day window to produce documentation. All information is public, parents can ask if their district is under any sort of corrective action plan. KDE website, exceptional children page. Annual determinations delivered to districts in May. Needs assistance I and II. Formal complaints are low in Kentucky and not prevalent in any one region. Kentucky has 25 complaints so far for 2018-19. Families are encouraged to call the district Director of Special Education but can also contact KDE directly if they feel they need a mediator. 1.0 % Alternate Assessment, waivers can be submitted. Comparison of past two years. 143 of 175 districts needed a waiver. Total of 1.18% and 1.10% of students needed alternate assessments. 170 of 173 districts went to 148 out of 173 needing a waiver.

## **XI. Co-Op Update**

Task groups for the nine cooperatives. IEP Training, IEP lesson plan development are both a focus. Currently planning for the scope of work/focus for next year. Explicit instruction train the trainer. Systemic improvement plan, transformation zones. Mental Health Support via the KY AWARE grant. Trauma training, peer support, support with corrective action plans, The Opportunity Myth training to examine implicit bias. Pre-Employment transition services, KY CASE Spring institute.

## **Notes:**

Thanks for Ravonne's presentation, formal motion to advise Department of Ed re: access to Infinite Campus for Department of Justice. Ensuring teachers in facilities receive service credit.

Pam Smith, Michelle P. Waiver - info about CLS payment is false, asking to be put in contact with the parent.

**Next Meeting:**

Scheduled for June 20&21 at Natural Bridge, it will be the last meeting of fiscal year. The theme will be Leadership in ARC meetings. Slate of officers will be presented for a vote. Members rolling off are Anita, Julie, Eric, and Libby. They can be reappointed. Barry will recommend all for reappointment for three year seats. Please submit travel reimbursement forms.

Communications Committee - what is available near Natural Bridge? Reach out to the local co-op. Joe will discuss virtual access with counsel.

Synopsis of parental rights. Kim has concerns that large districts would use summaries in lieu of mandated full disclosure. Anita suggests a video to summarize. Barry wonders if a group like ARC may have already created such a tool. Brent motioned Chris seconded, adjourned at 10:51.